

Did you know?

Hampton's **Aberdeen Gardens** won the "Neighborhood of the Year" award at the 27th annual Neighborhoods USA contest. For more information on this amazing neighborhood's accomplishments, go to "What's New?" at www.dhr.state.va.us.

PreserVAtion *in progress*

Vol. VII, No. 3

Virginia Department of Historic Resources Newsletter

September 2002

Rehabilitations illustrate power of preservation

Three stories marry restoration,
creativity

Historic rehabilitation is a process that benefits not only individual property owners, but also whole communities. By fixing up neighborhood eyesores, those involved in historic rehabilitations transform old buildings into beautiful and useful assets and often teach local residents and visitors unknown aspects about an area's history. In addition to these benefits, restoring old buildings creates jobs and helps fuel the momentum of economic development in historic districts and downtowns. Rehabilitation projects such as the ones profiled below help preserve Virginia's rich history and are part of a continuing statewide effort—headed by the Department of Historic Resources—to "put Virginia's history to work."

Among the many preservation success stories in recent years are the rehabilitations of the Samuel Pleasants Parsons House, Al's Motors Building, and the Sweet Briar College Historic District.

Samuel Pleasants Parsons House, Richmond

- Served as a catalyst for the construction of new town homes behind the house, resulting in the first new residential construction project in the heart of the capital in 30 years.
- Built in 1818 for Samuel Parsons, a prominent Quaker and superintendent of the nearby state penitentiary, the Oregon Hill structure also was used as a home for unwed mothers, foster care screening clinic, and halfway house before becoming state surplus property in 1987.
- In 2000, it was renovated into an upscale apartment complex comprised of 12 apartments, creating much-needed housing in downtown Richmond. The project represented a \$1 million investment in the city. The complex's success spurred the



The Gold's Gym building in Arlington once housed Al's Motors. It is a rare example of the Streamline Moderne style.

construction of new town homes behind the Samuel Pleasants Parsons House.

Al's Motors Building, Arlington County

- Now houses the flagship workout facility for Gold's Gym and serves as the company's corporate headquarters.
- The design of Al's Motors Building dates back to 1948 and is one of the few surviving examples of the Streamline Moderne Style in Northern Virginia.
- Gold's Gym bought the property in 2001, investing \$2.4 million in renovations and creating some 72 new jobs.

Sweet Briar College Historic District, Amherst County

- Founded in 1901, Sweet Briar is a liberal arts college for women. Its campus boasts 22 historic buildings built in the Georgian Revival style by distinguished architect Ralph Adams Cram. Cram also designed St. John the Divine in New York and the chapels at West Point and Princeton. Sweet Briar was one of his few works in Virginia.
 - In 2001, the college renovated 18 buildings on campus, improving the quality of this historic and architecturally significant educational setting. The \$5.3 million investment generated \$4.1 million in household income for the area.
- For more information, check out the department's Web site under "What's New?" at www.dhr.state.va.us.

- Alison Dolan



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Preservation in Progress is published by the Department of Historic Resources.

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Rehab bridges centuries



In July, DHR Director Kathleen Kilpatrick joined community, county, and Virginia Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration officials to rededicate the circa-1890 Goshen Land Company Bridge in Goshen. The metal double-truss bridge, built for boom days that never came, can now support 20 tons, up from 16 tons. The bridge is on the Virginia and national registers.

Stewardship training tops DHR priorities

With strong encouragement from Governor Mark R. Warner and the support of Secretary of Natural Resources W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr., Department of Historic Resources Director Kathleen S. Kilpatrick has made delivery of effective stewardship training one of the agency's top priorities. Stewardship training means educating public agencies and private organizations about the legal and ethical mandates for good stewardship, and telling the principal stewards of Virginia's historic resources about the tools necessary to sustain those resources.

Designed as a collaborative effort with organizations and agencies that share common stewardship and educational goals, DHR's training initiative in recent months has formed partnerships with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Preservation Alliance of Virginia,

the National Park Service, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, and the University of Virginia's School of Architecture, to name a few. Go to DHR's Web site for details on how DHR and its partners are carrying the stewardship message and tools to various groups across the state:

- Fundraising training for not-for-profit preservation and heritage organizations
- Time Crime training for law enforcement officials
- Tax credit training for property owners and developers
- The first Living Towns Conference east of the Blue Ridge
- Training for community advocates, teachers, Certified Local Governments, and Architectural Review Boards at the Virginia preservation conference to be held September 22-24 in Richmond.

For details, see "What's New?" on the department's Web site at www.dhr.state.va.us.

Historic signs mark 75 years along Va. roads

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the historical highway marker program in Virginia. To celebrate, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the Library of Virginia are co-sponsoring an exhibit on the program that is currently on display at the library until March 2003.

Since the program's inception in 1927, it has given generations of travelers, families, historians, and teachers an opportunity to take roadside glimpses of history all over the state. It is also one of the oldest and largest highway marker programs in the country, with nearly 2,000 markers.

Visitors to the exhibit will learn the history of the marker program and can view small replicas of highway markers and pictures of highlights in highway marker history.

For more details on the marker program, go to www.dhr.state.va.us/hiway_markers, or www.lva.lib.va.us.

Five localities receive funding

The 2002 Certified Local Governments grant funding applications came from all over Virginia and represented an array of project types, reflecting the breadth and depth of preservation activity across the state.

After reviewing the applications, the department has approved assistance for the localities of Arlington County, Leesburg, Richmond, Prince William County, and Suffolk in their preservation efforts. For more information on the use of these grants, visit our Web site at www.dhr.state.va.us/clg/clg.htm and click on the link at the bottom of the page.

Director's Notes

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick

In this issue of *Preservation in Progress*, we are introducing a new look and a new approach to “getting the word out”—shorter articles in the sprightlier print version that you see here referencing longer, in-depth versions on the DHR Web site.

We are moving in this direction for a number of reasons: First, to make greater use of electronic publishing and reach a wider audience with expanded Web site features such as a virtual tour of the new History Discovery Lab for teachers and students, and profiles of successful historic preservation rehabilitations (see page 1). Second, as many agencies and businesses are doing, we are striving to reduce the costs and resources consumed in the printing and mailing of a hard copy publication. With this approach, you will find that we can alert you to three times the number of updates, developments, and features as we did in previous newsletters.

You will notice also in this array of short articles that the department is moving toward four themes in our most recent initiatives. For **training and envi-**

ronmental education, see the updates on our fund raising workshop series, Time Crime training, Living Towns workshop, and the upcoming Preservation Alliance of Virginia confer-

ence. For the latest in **diversity projects**, see the “75th Anniversary of the Virginia Historic Highway Marker Program,” and our recent research on Fort Christanna in Brunswick County. Regarding **stewardship of state-owned buildings**, take a look at a major initiative for Capitol Square (see page 4). Look for details about our fourth initiative, **streamlining the review and compliance process**, in upcoming issues of *Preservation in Progress* and on our department’s official Web site at www.dhr.state.va.us

Another item of special note is the 2002 Parks Bond Referendum. This referendum, which Virginia citizens will vote on in the upcoming November election, would provide \$119 million for state parks and natural areas throughout the state. Passage of this bond would not raise taxes, and would allow for the purchase of land for new parks and provide funds to add to and improve existing parks and natural area preserves. The Virginia Parks and Natural Areas Bond Act of 2002 was overwhelmingly approved by both houses of the General Assembly and Governor Warner. We hope you will look at this issue and cast your vote on November 5.

Things you can do

Cemetery FAQs: It happens rarely, but usually makes headlines when it does: what to do when you find a graveyard on your property? Often when unmarked or unknown burial places are unearthed, developers, property owners, and residents do not know how the graves should be handled. The correct and legal thing to do when you find human bones is to leave them in place and contact the state police.

But then what? DHR has put together a list of answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding cemetery preservation, local regulations regarding human burials, and permits for conducting archaeology. Click on “Frequently Asked Questions” at www.dhr.state.va.us.

Virginia Outdoors Plan: State planners have revised Virginia’s comprehensive planning document for conservation, open space, and outdoor recreation resources. The Virginia Department of Conservation and

Recreation (DCR) recently published the 400-page 2002 *Virginia Outdoors Plan* and delivered it to localities, planning districts, and conservation organizations.

Copies are available for a fee from DCR. Call (804) 786-5046, or write to 203 Governor St., Suite 326, Richmond, VA 23219. The plan can be downloaded for free from www.dcr.state.va.us/prrr/vopfiles.htm.

Work plan draft: Each year the Department of Historic Resources recommits itself to encourage and support the identification, stewardship, and use of Virginia’s significant historic, architectural, and archaeological, and cultural benefits. This year, the department will emphasize three important initiatives in its work plan: stewardship of state-owned buildings, promoting diverse resources and landmarks (such as those associated with noted women and Native Americans), and education and training. Review of the work plan and public comment are welcomed. The Work Plan Draft for

2002-2003 can be accessed on the Web at the “What’s New?” section at www.dhr.state.va.us.

Archaeology Month: For the past 12 years, the Commonwealth has designated October as Virginia Archaeology Month. This year’s theme, “Archaeology in Transportation,” highlights an early Native American jasper quarry site discovered by the Virginia Department of Transportation in Culpeper County.

This October, more than 50 hands-on programs, museum exhibits, and lecture series are scheduled to be held around the state. Co-sponsored by VDOT, Archeological Society of Virginia, Council of Virginia Archaeologists, and DHR, this annual celebration is designed to raise an interest in archaeology for school-children and adults alike.

For details, check DHR’s Web site at www.dhr.state.va.us/arch_NET/arch_NET3.htm for the Calendar of Events. Free copies of the poster are available by calling the Department of Historic Resources at (804) 367-2323, ext. 134.

Of note

Diversity: One of DHR’s priorities over the next few years is promoting the recognition and preservation of historical sites of note that are related to Virginia women, African Americans, and Native Americans, or those involved in the Civil Rights in Education movement. We are interested in working with you; please consider nominating an appropriate property to the landmarks register, or adopting a highway marker. Contact Marc Wagner, register manager, or Scott Arnold, highway marker manager, at (804) 367-2323.

Great help: DHR interns and volunteers have been working hard on many projects over the last several months. Projects underway include land surveys, archaeological excavations, researching and drafting property nominations, and writing articles for DHR publications. For more details, go to the “What’s New?” section at www.dhr.state.va.us.

African American history: The Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) recently published *The Heritage and Culture of African-Americans in Virginia: A Guide to the Sites*. It features 103 sites throughout Virginia. A directory to African American Heritage Theme Tours through several cities are in the guide. Tours information can be accessed at www.travelingamerica.com/virginia/richmond.html.

DHR together with the VTC also published a guide to heritage tourism development, *Tourism Handbook: Putting Virginia's History to Work*, which provides expert advice on creating local and regional partnerships to interpret and market heritage tourism trails, festivals, and annual events. The handbook was recently awarded first place in the prestigious 2002 National Pen Women's Competition. For more information, see “What’s New?” at www.dhr.state.va.us.

Web hot spots

Click on the latest DHR news

Capitol idea: The Secretary of Administration is undertaking a major initiative to develop a plan for “seat of government” buildings in and around Capitol Square. First up for rehabilitation are the old State Library and the Capitol. Also being looked at is the historic Finance Building. DHR is working with the Secretary, the Public Buildings Board, the Capitol Square Preservation Council, and General Services in the initiative. For more information about the buildings, see “What’s New?” at www.dhr.state.va.us.

Targeted approach: For the past 10 years, DHR’s Survey and Planning Cost Share Program has been the primary tool used for comprehensive cultural resource surveys. The program partners state and local governments to fund survey projects that identify cultural resources while eliminating the administrative burden for localities. The program has developed a database that is used by local governments in their planning process-



The old Finance Building is part of historic Capitol Square.

es, and it has greatly expanded the state’s holdings of cultural resource information.

The cost share program continues to provide opportunities to identify and protect important resources across Virginia. Given the uncertainty of federal funding levels, coupled with the current state budget situation, the amount of cost share funding is likely to be reduced in the short term.

The program will take a targeted approach designed to address high-priority projects that are in keeping with departmental and statewide initiatives. For details, see the link at the bottom of the page at www.dhr.state.va.us/survey/survey1.htm.

Threatened Sites focusing on homesite, Jefferson courthouse

Since 1985, the Threatened Sites Program has saved significant archaeological sites or rescued information from those sites before the threats caused severe damage or loss. In 2001, more than a dozen investigators assessed, analyzed, excavated, or reported on 60 sites in 14 counties threatened by mining, residential development, farming, erosion, and looting.

Numerous Native American sites were investigated, including a pre-Clovis site—one of the largest Paleoindian sites in North America that dates to more than 11,500 years ago.

Among the historic sites studied were a Revolutionary War fort, three 19th-century pottery industries, and a tile manufactory. An assessment of the Atlantic Ocean side of

the Eastern Shore located 45 sites threatened by erosion. Their dates span the entire period of humans living along the shore.

The coming year’s projects will focus on a multi-component Native American site, a 1620s Virginia Company site, a French and Indian War fortified home site, and the Buckingham County Courthouse, which was reconstructed following a design by Thomas Jefferson.

The Threatened Sites Program is also joining several groups to contribute to the comparative analysis of 17th-century artifacts from 18 sites in Maryland and Virginia. For more information, see the DHR Web site at www.dhr.state.va.us/arch_DHR/threatened.htm.

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